AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for filtering messages for a node on a network, comprising:

determining an adaptive cut-off radius for a community based in part on a rate of growth for the community;

determining a degree of separation between each of a plurality of nodes that are associated with a first node, wherein the first node and at least a portion of the associated plurality of nodes are granted membership in [[a]] the community based on a number of degrees of separation between the first node and a second node in the community, and wherein the granting of membership in the community is limited by at least [[an]] the adaptive cut-off radius for the community;

determining a level of trust for the first node in the community based on the number of degrees of separation between the first node and another node in the community; and

if a message is received by the first node in the community from the other node in the community, employing the level of trust associated with the other node to determine if the message is to be delivered to at least one trusted folder associated with the first node.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the message is one of email, Short Message Service (SMS), Multi-Media Message Service (MMS), and Instant Message (IM).

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining the degree of separation between each of the plurality of nodes associated with the first node, further comprises determining each degree of separation between each node based at least in part on a listing in at least one of a contact list, a buddy list, a

received message, a forwarded message, a saved message, a sent message, an Internet Service Provider (ISP), an online chat room, an online group, on-line social network, and a message classified as non-spam.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the number of degrees of separation between the first node and the second node in the community is selectable.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the level of trust associated with the other node is selectable.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the trusted folder includes at least one of an inbox folder and a folder where unread messages are further processed after a period of time.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the processing after a period of time further comprises at least one of deleting the message, a white list filter, a black list filter, and a content filter.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising if another message is received from a source outside the community of nodes, employing at least one anti-spam filter to perform at least one of delete the other message and deliver the message to an untrusted folder.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining the degree of separation between each of the plurality of nodes, further comprises:

determining if one of the nodes in the plurality of nodes is separated by one degree of separation from a number of nodes that is greater than a predetermined level; and

identifying each node as a super node whose number of nodes that are separated by one degree of separation is greater than the predetermined level, wherein a level of trust for each node solely associated with super node is reduced.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining the degree of separation, further comprises determining that a first degree of separation from the first node is a membership in at least one of a contact list and a buddy list.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the determining the degree of separation, further comprises determining that a first degree of separation from the first node includes a listing in more than one of a contact list, a buddy list, a received message, a forwarded message, a sent message, an Internet Service Provider (ISP), an online chat room, an online group, an on-line social network, and a message classified as non-spam.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising assigning a high level of trust to each node that is separated from the first node by one degree of separation.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising if a number of first degree of separation associations with nodes for the first node is less than a threshold, automatically providing membership in the community to each node associated with the first node.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising revoking the level of trust associated with the other node based on actions related to unsolicited messages.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising enabling each message alias for one node to be handled as the same node.

16. (Currently Amended) A server for filtering messages for a node on a network, comprising:

a memory for storing instructions; and

a processor for executing instructions to perform actions, including:

determining an adaptive cut-off radius for a community based in part on a rate of growth for the community;

determining a degree of separation between each of a plurality of nodes that are associated with a first node, wherein the first node and at least a portion of the associated plurality of nodes are granted membership in [[a]] the community based on a number of degrees of separation between the first node and a second node in the community, and wherein the granting of membership in the community is controlled by at least [[an]] the adaptive cut-off radius for the community;

determining a level of trust for the first node in the community based on the number of degrees of separation between the first node and another node in the community; and

if a message is received by the first node in the community from the other node in the community, employing the level of trust associated with the other node to determine if the message is to be delivered to at least one trusted folder associated with the first node.

17. (Currently Amended) A client on a network, comprising:

a memory for storing instructions; and

a processor for executing instructions to perform actions, including:

determining an adaptive cut-off radius for a community based in part on a rate of growth for the community;

receiving a determined degree of separation between each of a plurality of nodes that are associated with the client, wherein the client and at least a portion of the associated plurality of nodes are granted membership in [[a]] the community based on a number of degrees of separation between the client and a first node in the community, and wherein the granting of membership in the community is controlled by at least [[an]] the adaptive cut-off radius for the community;

receiving a determined level of trust for the client in the community based on the number of degrees of separation between the client and a second node in the community; and

if a message is received by the client from the second node in the community, employing the level of trust associated with the second node to determine if the message is to be delivered to at least one trusted folder associated with the client.

18. (Currently Amended) A carrier wave signal that includes instructions for filtering messages for a node on a network, comprising:

enabling a determining of an adaptive cut-off radius for a community based in part on a rate of growth for the community;

enabling a determining of a degree of separation between each of a plurality of nodes that are associated with a first node, wherein the first node and at least a portion of the associated plurality of nodes are granted membership in [[a]] the community based on a number of degrees of separation between the first node and a second node in the community, and wherein the granting of membership in the community is controlled by at least [[an]] the adaptive cut-off radius for the community;

enabling a determining of a level of trust for the first node in the community based on the number of degrees of separation between the first node and another node in the community; and

if a message is received by the first node in the community from the other node in the community, enabling the level of trust associated with the other node to determine if the message is to be delivered to at least one trusted folder associated with the first node.

19. (Currently Amended) A processor readable media that includes executable data for performing actions for filtering messages for a node on a network, comprising:

determining an adaptive cut-off radius for a community based in part on a rate of growth for the community;

determining of a degree of separation between each of a plurality of nodes that are associated with a first node, wherein the first node and at least a portion of the associated plurality of nodes are granted membership in [[a]] the community based on a number of degrees of separation between the first node and a second node in the community, and wherein the granting of membership in the community is controlled by at least [[an]] the adaptive cut-off radius for the community;

determining of a level of trust for the first node in the community based on the number of degrees of separation between the first node and another node in the community; and

if a message is received by the first node in the community from the other node in the community, for employing the level of trust associated with the other node to determine if the message is to be delivered to at least one trusted folder associated with the first node.